



City of Rochester, NY
Robert J. Duffy, Mayor



Maggie Brooks
County Executive

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Council for People with Disabilities to Offer ‘Democracy Rides’ ***County Executive and Mayor Applaud Volunteer Efforts to Provide*** ***Free Rides to Polls for People with Disabilities***

(Monday, Oct. 25, 2010) – County Executive Maggie Brooks and Mayor Robert J. Duffy announced today that “Democracy Rides” – a volunteer effort to provide free rides to the polls for people with disabilities – will be offered for a second year. The program is sponsored by the Monroe County-City of Rochester Council for People with Disabilities (COPD).

“The Council believes that there should be no barriers to participation in government and recruited some very caring companies to help,” said Peg Pepe-O’Brien, chair of the COPD. “We hope that people who need lifts for their wheelchairs or scooters or other assistance will take advantage of this free service.”

Medicab, Medical Motor Service and Monroe Ambulance and Medical Transportation have each agreed to donate 20 rides to help people with accessibility issues get to the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2. People needing rides should call the company of their choice by **Monday, Nov. 1, no later than 4:30 p.m.** to schedule a ride (see program details below). Due to the necessary medical appointments of their regular customers, the companies ask riders to be flexible in their timing requests.

“The annual ‘Democracy Rides’ Program stands as a testament to the strong spirit of collaboration that defines our community and its residents,” said Brooks. “When local people living with disabilities reached out to the Council to address the issue of transportation on Election Day, three outstanding companies stepped up to help without hesitation. I’m extremely pleased that, as a result, residents with disabilities will have every opportunity to exercise their right to vote on November 2nd.”

“Last year, we asked the Council to identify areas in which barriers existed for people with disabilities and to help us eliminate those barriers,” Mayor Duffy said. “The event was a huge success, and this year we are proud to offer it again. It is vital that all area residents are able to exercise their right to vote regardless of a lack of transportation. This is an example of democracy at its best.”

The COPD is a nine-member advisory board made up of people representing a broad cross-section of disabilities. The COPD, County Executive Brooks and Mayor Duffy would especially like to thank Medicab, Medical Motor Service, and Monroe Ambulance and Medical Transportation for their generous support of this program.

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“DEMOCRACY RIDES” PROGRAM DETAILS

- What:** Free rides to the polls in wheelchair-accessible vehicles on Election Day for people with disabilities
- When:** Rides on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2
People needing rides MUST call provider by Monday, Nov. 1 at 4:30 p.m. No rides can be scheduled after this time.
- Who to Call:** Companies providing free rides are:
Medicab Transportation: 342-7150
Medical Motor Service: 654-7030
Monroe Ambulance and Medical Transportation: 232-9000
- Information:** Riders will need to be flexible on timing of rides;
Riders should give location of polling place when setting up the ride (for information, call the Monroe County Board of Elections at 753-1550 or go to www.monroecounty.gov).

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News Media: For more information, contact Tassie Demps, City of Rochester, at 428-7134; or the Monroe County Department of Communications 753-1080.